

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-58 (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for ordering and tracking components required to assemble an asset for use in a particular data center comprising a plurality of assets, the method comprising:

creating an asset record for the asset designated for assembly, wherein the asset is comprised of a plurality of components, wherein creating the asset record comprises generating an asset identifier for the asset that is unique within the data center and distinguishes the asset from the plurality of assets in the data center;

creating a purchase order for each of the plurality of components of the asset;

storing the asset record and purchase order information in a management database, wherein the stored purchase order information is associated with the asset record in the management database;

upon receiving the plurality of components along with information regarding the purchase orders of the components, retrieving and updating the asset record in the management database using the received purchase order information to reflect that the plurality of components have been received; and

determining whether all components required for assembling the asset have been received,

wherein each of the method steps are performed automatically, without human intervention.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 further comprising:
- transmitting the purchase orders for the plurality of components to a supplier, vendor or buying agent; and
- after the creating an asset record step, receiving the plurality of components along with information regarding the purchase orders of the components,
- wherein each of the method steps are performed by an entity that purchases the plurality of components.
61. (Canceled)
62. (Canceled)
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein an asset template is used to create the asset record and the purchase orders.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein the asset record contains information relating to the asset including physical descriptors of the asset, resources consumed by the asset, or soft attributes of the asset.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein receiving a component comprises:

receiving a container including the component, wherein a machine-readable code has been placed on the outside of the container; and

scanning the machine-readable code, wherein the code contains information on the purchase order of the component.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 59, wherein the received purchase order information comprises a purchase order number, a model or serial number of a component, and information regarding the shipped configuration of a component.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 59, further comprising:
if it is determined that all the components required for assembling the asset have been received, assembling the asset using the plurality of components.

69. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 68, further comprising:
after assembling the asset, deploying the asset into a the data center,
~~comprising a plurality of assets each~~ the deployed asset being connected to a network, wherein the management database is also connected to the network.

70. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~69~~ 68, further comprising:

~~generating an asset ID for the deployed asset, the asset ID being a unique identifier within the data center; and~~

~~placing the asset ID on the deployed asset~~

~~after assembling the asset, generating the asset identifier in a printed form; and~~

~~affixing the printed form to the assembled asset.~~

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69, further comprising:

updating the asset record in the management database to include a network address, Local Area Network detail, or a MAC address for the deployed asset.

73. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium that stores a computer program for ordering and tracking components required to assemble an asset for use in a particular data center, the computer program comprising sets of instructions for:

creating an asset record for the asset designated for assembly, wherein the asset is comprised of a plurality of components, wherein the set of instructions for creating the asset record comprises a set of instructions for generating an asset identifier for the asset that is unique within the data center and distinguishes the asset from the plurality of assets in the data center;

creating a purchase order for each of the plurality of components of the asset;

storing the asset record and purchase order information in a management database, wherein the stored purchase order information is associated with the asset record in the management database;

upon receiving the plurality of components along with information regarding the purchase orders of the components, retrieving and updating the asset record in the management database using the received purchase order information to reflect that the plurality of components have been received; and

determining whether all components required for assembling the asset have been received,

wherein each set of instructions are configured to be executed automatically, without human intervention.

74. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 73 further comprising sets of instructions for:

transmitting the purchase orders for the plurality of components to a supplier, vendor or buying agent,

wherein each set of instructions are caused to be executed by an entity that purchases the plurality of components.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 73 wherein the asset record contains information relating to the asset including physical

descriptors of the asset, resources consumed by the asset, or soft attributes of the asset.

76. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 73, wherein the received purchase order information comprises a purchase order number, a model or serial number of a component, and information regarding the shipped configuration of a component.

77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 73, wherein the asset is assembled and deployed into ~~a~~the data center, ~~comprising a plurality of assets each~~ the deployed asset being connected to a network, wherein the management database is also connected to the network, ~~the computer readable medium further comprising sets of instructions for:~~

~~updating the asset record in the management database to include a network address, Local Area Network detail, or a MAC address for the deployed asset.~~

79. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 78 further comprising sets of instructions for:

maintaining contact with the deployed asset through the management database and network to service, update, configure, or diagnose the deployed asset.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69 wherein the deployed asset comprises a computer, the method further comprising:
- updating the asset record in the management database to include software configuration information of the deployed asset.
81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69, further comprising:
- maintaining contact with the deployed asset through the management database and network.
82. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 69, further comprising:
- servicing, updating, configuring, or diagnosing the deployed asset through the management database and network.
83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 82 wherein the servicing, updating, configuring, or diagnosing is performed automatically, without human intervention.
84. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the asset identifier for the asset is generated based on the purchase orders created for the components of the asset.

85. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 73, wherein the asset identifier for the asset is generated based on the purchase orders created for the components of the asset.